

Kansas' Noxious Weeds



Field Bindweed
(*Convolvulus arvensis*)



Sericea lespedeza
(*Lespedeza cuneata*)



Pignut
(*Hoffmannseggia densiflora*)



Kudzu
(*Pueraria lobata*)



Bur ragweed
(*Ambrosia grayii*)



Musk thistle
(*Carduus nutans*)



Russian knapweed
(*Centaurea repens*)



Canada thistle
(*Cirsium arvense*)



Johnsongrass
(*Sorghum halepense*)



Quackgrass
(*Agropyron repens*)



Leafy spurge
(*Euphorbia esula*)



Hoary cress
(*Cardaria draba*)

Plant Protection and Weed Control

1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502
Phone: 785-564-6698 Fax: 785-564-6779
agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/plant-protect-weed-control



Bull thistle
(*Cirsium vulgare*)
- County optional -



Multiflora rose
(*Rosa multiflora*)
- County optional -



Field bindweed — A non-native perennial in the morning glory family with arrowhead-shaped leaves and white to pink bell-shaped flowers. This Eurasian plant is found throughout Kansas and spreads via a fleshy root system and by seed.

Sericea lespedeza — A short-lived perennial in the bean family native to Asia. The plant has cream-colored flowers with purple markings and leaves with three parts. It is common in rangelands and prairies throughout eastern Kansas, especially in the Flint Hills.

Pignut or Hog potato — A perennial herb in the bean family native to extreme southwestern Kansas. The plant has yellow flowers and a deep root system with small potato-like growths that make the plant difficult to control and provide its colorful common names.

Kudzu — A perennial vine in the bean family native to Asia. The plant has large three-parted leaves and reddish flowers. Introduced as erosion control on mined lands in southeast Kansas, it's now found in only a few scattered areas of the state.

Bur ragweed — A native perennial from western Kansas in the aster family. The plant has an aggressive root system that spreads over large areas. The leaves are covered with silvery-gray hairs and the fruit is ringed by slender spines that have hooked tips.

Musk thistle — A biennial in the aster family and is native to Eurasia. Found throughout Kansas, the plant forms a rosette of spiny, white-edged leaves during the first year. The second year the plant sends up a stalk with spiny, purplish flower heads .

Russian knapweed — A non-native perennial in the aster family. Found sporadically in Kansas, this Asian plant has pink or purplish flower heads and forms dense stands from an extensive root system. This plant is toxic to horses if eaten.

Canada thistle — A perennial in the aster family with a spreading root system capable of growing 3' to 5' per year. The pink male and female flower heads occur on separate plants. Native to Eurasia, it is found on disturbed sites mostly in northwest Kansas.

Johnsongrass — A perennial grass from the Mediterranean that is related to and can hybridize with grain sorghum. The grass spreads aggressively by seeds and by thick, scaly roots. Found throughout Kansas it is common along roads and ditches.

Quackgrass — A non-native grass from Eurasia. The base of each leaf blade has a pair of tiny appendages that fold around the stem. Found at scattered, moist locations throughout Kansas, the grass spreads via seed and a vigorous, spreading root system.

Leafy spurge — A perennial in the spurge family that is native to Eurasia. The plant has a yellowish, flower-like disk below greenish flowers and a milky sap that is toxic to cattle. Leafy spurge is found in disturbed locations mostly in northern Kansas.

Hoary cress — A non-native perennial in the mustard family. The plant spreads via seed and its creeping root system. The leaves wrap around the hairy stems and fragrant white flowers occur at the stem tips. Found throughout Kansas, especially in the north half.

Bull thistle — A biennial in the aster family. The plant has a stalk of dark purple flowers with a ring of stiff spines at their base. Found throughout Kansas, this Eurasian plant is common along roadsides and other disturbed sites. Bull thistle is a county-option weed.

Multiflora rose — A large shrub in the rose family. The plant has arching stems armed with claw-like prickles. The white to pink flowers occur in clusters at the ends of stems. This Asian plant is found throughout Kansas. Multiflora rose is a county-option weed.

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